Books of instructions are also circulated by banks amongst their staff indicating precautions/checks which should be observed to prevent occurrence of frauds.

Workers in MITCO

1003. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to faulty functioning of MITCO in recent years the number of factory workers and small dealers have gone down heavily in mica industry of Bihar; and

(b) if so, what action Government to propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) and (b) The mica trade fall under highly unorganised sector. As such authentic statistics on the number of workers employed in the trade is not available. The number of weaker section dealers registered with MITCO which were 1022 in 1982 went upto 1940 in 1984-85. Mica Trading Corporation of India Limited (MITCO) is pursuing policies designed to give maximum benefit to the weaker section of dealers as well as workers in the mica trade. With a view to provide means of livelihood to the mica dealers belonging to weaker sections, MITCO makes more than 90 per cent of its purchases of mica from them. It has introduced a scheme "support the weakest" under which small mica processors can even supply very small quantities of mica. A series of export promotion measures have also been taken to promote export of value-added mica products and generate employment thereby.

Complaints against MITCO

1004. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a complaint dated the 2nd January, 1986 from the small mica traders of Bihar regarding widespread corruption, delay in payment of bills and arbitrary fixation of prices of mica purchased by MITCO; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to hold any enquiry into the matter?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) and (b) A representation has been received and the matter is being looked into.

Export of Manufactured Mica and Processed Mica

1005. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the proportion of export of manufactured mica in comparison to processed mica has considerably increased in recent years; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to negotiate with the countries importing bulk processed mica from India to have long term arrangement with India for import of manufactured mica of their specifications instead of processed mica, which will generate employment in India and bring higher returns?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government is in constant touch with important importing countries for increase of-take of manufactured mica/value added mica based products on a long term basis.

Medium-term Loans to States

1006 SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in order to relieve the strain on the States' resources caused